

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAMAKO 00377 300927Z

12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 MC-02 ACDA-05 IO-11 /090 W

----- 101756

P R 291737Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3161

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 377

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ML, MILI, PFOR, XA

SUBJ: REGIONAL ARMS RESTRAINTS

REF: STATE 20621

1. MISSION OF MALIAN ARMED FORCES IS TWO-FOLD: CIVIC ACTION AND BORDER DEFENSE. AS THE ONLY ORGANIZED AND DISCIPLINED FORCE WITHIN THE COUNTRY, THE ARMED FORCES CONTINUE TO PLAY A KEY ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT WORK. WITH A LAND AREA TWICE THE SIZE OF TEXAS, THE COMMON BORDERS WITH SEVEN COUNTRIES, A LEVEL OF ARMAMENTS ADEQUATE TO DETER INCRUSIONS IS ESSENTIAL. THE MALIANS SEEM TO KNOW AT WHAT LEVEL THIS DETERRENCE WOULD BECOME

A PROVOCATION, AND THEY HAVE SHOWN RESTRAINT.

2. BORDER SKIRMISHES WITH UPPER VOLTA IN 1974-75 (TOTAL OF ABOUT FIVE DEAD) STABILIZED WHEN MALI MOVED TANK AND INFANTRY FORCES TO THE AREA. WE ARE CONVINCED  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAMAKO 00377 300927Z

THE MALIANS HAD NO DESIGNS ON UPPER VOLTAN TERRITORY;

BUT, AND THIS MAY REFLECT A DEEPLY PAROCHIAL VIEW, FRENCH DECISION TO SUPPLY WEAPONS TO VOLTANS DID THREATEN FOR A TIME THE STANDOFF ON THE GROUND. WE CONCLUDE THAT SUDDEN INJECTION OF ARMS FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES AT TIMES OF LOCALIZED CLASHES IN UNSTABILIZING AND CAN RAPIDLY ESCALATE. THUS, WILLINGNESS OF OUTSIDE SUPPLIERS TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT CAN BE CRUCIAL.

3. AT THE CURRENT LEVEL OF ACQUISITION, THE POSSIBLE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH SUPPLIERS, COST DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE A RESTRAINING FACTOR. DESPITE THIS LACK OF BUDGETARY RESTRAINT, THERE ARE POLITICAL RESTRAINTS WHICH MUST BE OVERCOME BY BALANCING THE SOVIETS AND THE CHINESE (ONE MALIAN TANK COMPANY WAS EQUIPPED BY THE SOVIETS, ONE BY THE CHINESE).

4. FOR THE FUTURE, WE BELIEVE THE MALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK TO OBTAIN A LIMITED AMOUNT OF ARMAMENTS MORE SOPHISTICATED THAN THE MIG-15 AND MIG-17 JETS (TOTAL 8) THAT THEY NOW HAVE. THE MOTIVE IS PROBABLY TO KEEP ABREAST OF THE STATE-OF-THE-ART IN MILITARY TECHNOLOGY, AS WELL AS FOR DEFENSE PURPOSES. MISSILES AND ADVANCED TANKS, HOWEVER, ARE PROBABLY NOT DESIRED. WHILE WE DOUBT THE MALIANS HAVE GIVEN ANY THOUGHT THEMSELVES TO REGIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT, IT IS THE KIND OF PROPOSAL THAT WOULD PROBABLY BE WELL RECEIVED. IN VIEW OF U.S. CUT-OFF OF FMS, HOWEVER, MINIMAL THOUGH IT WAS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE ARE IN A POSITION TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH GRM NOW, AND WOULD SUGGEST THAT IDEA WOULD BE BETTER RECEIVED HERE IF IT WAS RAISED IN REGIONAL CONTEXT, SUCH AS THE OAU. CERTAINLY, THE MALIANS WOULD SEE THEIR OWN LONG-TERM INTERESTS ENHANCED, AND FUTURE RESTRAINT WOULD BE IN LINE WITH THE SECRETARY'S OBJECTIVES.

MCGUIRE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMS, NATIONAL SECURITY, CONVENTIONAL WARFARE, MILITARY POLICIES, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BAMAKO00377  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760035-1134  
**From:** BAMAKO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760111/aaaaajco.tel  
**Line Count:** 94  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 20621  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REGIONAL ARMS RESTRAINTS  
**TAGS:** MILI, PFOR, ML, XA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006